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Dated: February 24, 2004 Signature:

Marco Jimenez

Docket No.: 393032016210
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Kazuhisa OKAMURA

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently herewith

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Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2663

Parent Serial No.: 09/532,835

Parent Filing Date: March 21, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is a preliminary amendment to accompany the above-identified divisional application. The entire disclosure of the prior application, application serial no. 09/532,835 filed on March 21, 2000, from which an oath or declaration is supplied, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying divisional application and is hereby entirely incorporated by reference.

The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078036, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078037, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078038, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078039, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078040, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078041, and Japanese Patent Application No. 11-078042, all filed on March 23, 1999. All papers and documents required to make the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) were filed in the parent case on March 21, 2000.

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.